

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1-59. (Cancelled)

60. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 83, wherein the first heart structure is a first heart wall ~~wherein positioning the device further includes anchoring another end of the elongate member proximate the annulus of the valve.~~

61. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 83, wherein the first and second elongate members are tension members ~~at least one elongate member includes a tension member.~~

62. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 83, wherein securing the device to the in situ mitral valve includes sewing the device to an atrial side of the in situ mitral valve ~~the at least one elongate member includes a plurality of elongate members.~~

63. (Cancelled)

64. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[83]] 60, wherein the second heart structure is a second heart wall opposing the first heart wall ~~heart structure includes a wall of a heart chamber.~~

65. (Cancelled)

66. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 83, further comprising securing a third elongate member between the first heart structure and the second heart structure wherein altering the geometry of the heart structure includes altering at least one of a transverse radial dimension and vertical dimension of a heart chamber during at least a portion of the cardiac cycle.

67. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[66]] 62, wherein sewing the device to an atrial side of the in situ mitral valve draws tissue toward an inside of the ring-like member wherein altering at least one of the transverse radial dimension and vertical dimension includes reducing at least one of the transverse radial dimension and vertical dimension.

68. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 83, wherein a distal portion of one of the first and second elongate members is in contact with a papillary muscle of the left ventricle positioning the device includes positioning the device so as to alter a position of at least one papillary muscle associated with the valve.

69-82. (Cancelled)

83. (Currently Amended) A method of treating an in situ mitral valve, the method comprising:

securing a device to the in situ mitral valve, the device including a ring-like member and first and second elongate members extending therefrom, wherein each of the first and second elongate members includes a proximal portion and a distal portion;

securing the first elongate member to a first heart structure of a left ventricle associated with the in situ mitral valve; and

securing the second elongate member to a second heart structure of the left ventricle, wherein the second heart structure is different from the first heart structure

~~positioning a passive device with respect to a heart such that, throughout the cardiac cycle, a portion of the device contacts and passively alters a geometry of heart structure other than leaflets, chordae, papillary muscles, and an annulus associated with the in situ mitral valve, wherein the passive device draws together leaflets of the in situ valve to promote closure of the in situ valve, and wherein positioning the device includes extending at least a portion of at least one elongate member within a chamber of the heart and anchoring an end of the at least one elongate member to one of a wall surrounding the heart chamber and a papillary muscle in the chamber.~~

84. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[68]] 83, further comprising wherein altering the position of the at least one papillary muscle associated with the valve includes drawing the at least one a papillary muscle toward the in situ mitral valve.

85. (Currently Amended) A method of treating an in situ mitral valve, the method comprising:

securing a ring to the in situ mitral valve;
extending an elongate member from the ring to a heart structure within a left ventricle associated with the in situ mitral valve; and
disposing a distal portion of the elongate member in direct contact with a papillary muscle of the left ventricle

~~positioning a passive device with respect to a heart such that, throughout the cardiac cycle, a portion of the device contacts and passively alters a geometry of heart structure other than leaflets, chordae, papillary muscles, and an annulus associated with the in situ mitral valve, wherein the passive device draws together leaflets of the in situ valve to promote closure of the in situ valve, and wherein positioning the device includes positioning the device so as to alter a position of at least one papillary muscle associated with the valve.~~

86. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 85, further comprising wherein ~~altering the position of the at least one papillary muscle associated with the valve includes drawing the at least one papillary muscle toward the~~ in situ mitral valve.

87. (Currently Amended) A method of treating an in situ mitral valve, the method comprising:

sewing a ring to an atrial side of the in situ mitral valve;

extending a first elongate member from the ring to a first anchor point, wherein
the first anchor point includes a first papillary muscle; and
drawing the first papillary muscle towards the in situ mitral valve
positioning a passive device with respect to a heart such that, throughout the
cardiac cycle, a portion of the device contacts and passively alters a geometry of heart
structure other than leaflets, chordae, papillary muscles, and an annulus associated
with the in situ mitral valve, wherein the passive device draws together leaflets of the in
situ valve to promote closure of the in situ valve, and wherein the device includes an
elongate member that traverses a chamber of the heart.

88. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 87, wherein sewing the
ring to an atrial side of the in situ mitral valve includes drawing tissue towards an inside
of the ring the heart structure includes a wall of a heart chamber.

89. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 87, further comprising the
step of extending a second elongate member from the ring to a second anchor point,
the second anchor point including a second papillary muscle different from the first
papillary muscle wherein altering the geometry of the heart structure includes altering at
least one of a transverse radial dimension and vertical dimension of a heart chamber
during at least a portion of the cardiac cycle.

90. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 89, further comprising
anchoring the first and second elongate members to an exterior heart wall wherein

~~altering at least one of the transverse radial dimension and vertical dimension includes
reducing at least one of the transverse radial dimension and vertical dimension.~~

91-98. (Cancelled)